

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 /061 W

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O P 291739Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9905

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CS, HO

SUBJECT: CHARGE AGAINST VP CASTILLO

REF STATE 098354

1. ARTICLE LINKING FORMER ECONMIN BENNATON, FONMIN BATRES AND COSTA RICAN VP CASTILLO APPEARED IN APRIL 28 EDITION OF AFTERNOON PAPER LA NOTICIA. IT IS DATELINED AS FOLLOWS: TEGUCIGALPA, APRIL 24 (BY RUBEN DARIO MURGAS, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OFERSA). THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ERSFA IS PANAMANIAN NEWS SERVICE. APPARENTLY STORY SENT TO PANAMANIAN NEWSPAPER PANAMA AMERICA ON APRIL 24 AND SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP AND PRINTED IN LA NOTICIA ON APRIL 28.

2. STORY IS PRESENTED  
WITH BANNER HEADLINE STATING,  
"BENNATON, CASTILLO AND BATRES IMPLICATED IN BRIBE."  
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APART FROM GENERAL COMMENTARY ABOUT HONDURAN SITUATION, THE ARTICLE CONTAINS TWO SPECIFIC PARAGRPHS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS SUPPOSEDLY IMPLICATED IN BRIBE. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS: "THE BANANA BRIBERY, WHICH

TERMINATED LOPEZ' POLITICAL CAREER, HAS ALSO INVOLVED ABRAHAM BENNATON RAMOS, EX-MINISTER OF ECONOMY; VICE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, CARLOS MANUEL CASTILLO AND CESAR BATRES, EX MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

"AFTER THE BRIBE WAS REVEALED, IT WAS PROVEN THAT BENNATON BOUGHT A GREAT NUMBER OF SHARES IN THE CEMENT AND FLOUR MONOPOLIES AND THAT, TOGETHER WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, INVESTED GREAT AMOUNTS OF CAPITAL IN MCDONALD'S CHAIN OF CAFETERIAS."

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST STORY THAT HAS APPEARED IN THE HONDURAN PRESS LINKING VP CASTILLO AND GOH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WHILE BATRES' NAME HAS APPEARED IN STORIES ABOUT THE GOH BANANA COMMISSION, THIS IS THE FIRST DIRECT ACCUSATION LEVELED AGAINST HIM. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE CHARGES.  
SANCHEZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, BANANAS, BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE INFO GUATEMALA  
MANAGUA  
PANAMA  
SAN JOSE  
SAN SALVADOR  
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